

ADDRESSING HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF INFANTS & YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE COURT SYSTEM

**Presented on:
February 4, 2008**

Sheraton Hotel, Lansing

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



***State Court Administrative Office,
Family Services Division-
Child Welfare Services***

***In collaboration with:
American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law***

***Cosponsored by:
Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan
Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health
Michigan Department of Community Health
Michigan Department of Human Services
Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice***

Travel for Department of Human Services staff for this program is funded by a federal Children's Justice Act grant to the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice administered through the Michigan Department of Human Services, under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, CFDA 93.643, being sections 107(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) as amended (42 USC 5101 *et seq.*); and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended (42 USC 10601 *et seq.*) In addition, this is a joint project of the State Court Administrative Office and the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, chaired by the Honorable Elizabeth A. Weaver, Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court.

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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports that one-third of children entering foster care are zero to three years of age, with 15 percent being infants under age one. A recent explosion of scientific research has provided new insights into of the complex social, emotional, and intellectual development that unfolds during a child's earliest years. Despite their special vulnerability, too many young children seen by courts in child abuse or neglect cases or other custody matters do not receive services that can address and ameliorate risks to their early development. Participants who attend this one-day training will hear from national and state experts on the most current permanency and early intervention issues and practices for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers involved with the court system through child protective proceedings. The day will include a complement of panels and individual speakers that will provide both a national and a crucial Michigan perspective.

The training will begin with a session by a clinical development psychologist, demonstrating why judges, attorneys, and other child welfare professionals must carefully consider the early development of infants and toddlers. The session will explain some of the recent scientific findings about early infant development and will provide the framework for the remainder of the day. Infant mental health experts will focus on the importance of parents forming healthy attachment relationships with infants and toddlers and discuss the implications for visitation with infants and toddlers in foster care.

A panel of Michigan infant mental health experts will provide specifics about essential early intervention services, including services provided under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). An experienced judge from a specialized infant-toddler court will provide the legal framework for meeting the needs of infants and toddlers in foster care. The afternoon will conclude with a panel discussion of new and innovative court and community collaborations, including specialized court programs that improve outcomes for infants and toddlers.

Through the federal Child and Family Services Review process, Michigan is evaluated on how well it provides for safety, permanency, and well-being for foster children. This training will provide DHS workers and private agency caseworkers with the skills essential for improving the outcomes for very young children placed in state care. It also will provide judges, attorneys, and other child welfare professionals with comparably vital information to inform and change their practices.

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GENERAL PROGRAM AGENDA (session times and speakers subject to change.)

8:00-9:00 am	<i>Registration</i>
9:00-9:15 am	<i>Welcome</i>
9:15- 10:15 am	<i>Development and Mental Health: Special Concerns for Infants and Toddlers in Care</i> Katherine L. Rosenblum, Ph.D.
10:15-10:30 am	<i>Break</i>
10:30-11:45	<i>Forming Healthy Attachment Relationships with Infants and Toddlers</i> Julie Ribaudo, M.S.W., Infant Mental Health Clinician
11:45-12:45 pm	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45-1:45 pm	<i>Visitation with Infants and Toddlers in Foster Care</i> Stefanie Hill, M.S.W., Infant Mental Health Clinician
1:45-2:45 pm	<i>What You Need to Know About Early Intervention Services</i> Vanessa Winborne , Michigan Department of Education Dawn Ritter, M.S.W. Nichole Paradis, M.S.W.
2:45-3:00 pm	<i>Break</i>
3:00-4:00 pm	<i>The Legal Framework for Meeting the Needs of Infants and Toddlers</i> Judge Monica Drinane, Family Court Judge, Bronx, New York (invited)
4:00-5:00 pm	<i>Model Court-Community Initiatives</i> Honorable Robert E. Weiss, Probate Court judge, Genesee County

TARGET AUDIENCE

This cross-professional conference is designed for:

- Judges and referees
- Prosecutors/assistant attorneys general
- Lawyer-guardians ad litem and parents' attorneys
- Department of Human Services Children's Protective Services, foster care, and adoptions caseworkers
- Private agency foster care and adoption caseworkers
- Tribal judges, prosecutors, caseworkers, and related staff
- CASAs, Foster Care Review Board members, and related child welfare professionals
- Mental health professionals working with court-involved young children and families

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REGISTRATION

THERE IS NO REGISTRATION COST TO ATTEND THIS TRAINING. The cost of this training is funded through federal Court Improvement Program training grant monies. All training materials and lunch are provided. Except for DHS workers, mileage and lodging will not be reimbursed and are the responsibility of individual attendees. To enable DHS workers to attend this training, the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice has generously agreed to reimburse DHS workers' mileage and lodging, as detailed in the L-letter related to this training announcement.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis. However, there may be some exceptions to ensure geographic diversity and participation across professions. A confirmation letter will be sent to you approximately two weeks before the training. That letter will provide an agenda and additional details about the training.

Fill out and return the completed Training Registration form no later than January 21, 2008.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

An application to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for L.M.S.W.s and L.B.S.W.s has been submitted and approval is pending. Upon approval, we will provide CEUs at no charge to qualified individuals who attend the entire portion of the training for which he or she registers. There will be a sign in/sign out form that must be signed in order to obtain the certificate necessary to receive CEUs. As your Social Work license number is required, please have your license number available on February 4th. We will not be able to offer exceptions to these requirements.

LODGING INFORMATION

A limited block of rooms has been reserved at the Sheraton Hotel Lansing through January 21, 2008.

Please Note: You are responsible for your overnight expenses; however, a special rate of \$65.00 has been negotiated. To make your reservation, contact the Sheraton Hotel directly at 517-323-7100. When making your reservation, please specify that you are attending the State Court Administrative Office-Child Welfare Services training to ensure that you receive our special reduced rate.

If you have any questions, please call Julie Welch or Jennifer Doerr at 517-334-6060 ext. 833 or 836 or e-mail at welchj@michigan.gov or doerrj@michigan.gov.

GETTING THERE

The Sheraton is located off I-496 and Creyts Road at 925 South Creyts Rd., Lansing, MI 48917. Directions can be found by going to the following websites:

Sheraton website: www.sheratonlansing.com

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

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REGISTRATION

(Please print or type legibly. This information will be used for your name tag.)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Length of Involvement with Child Protective Proceedings/Child Welfare: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____ Special Needs: _____

E-mail: _____ (Confirmations will be sent by e-mail only.)

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Return completed registration form by January 21, 2008, to:

**PAAM/CATS
116 W. Ottawa
Suite 500
Lansing, MI 48933
Fax: 517-334-7052**

Note: This training is being administered by the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) for the State Court Administrative Office, Family Services Division - Child Welfare Services. For further information, or if you require handicap access to facilities or special assistance at the program, please contact Jennifer Doerr at 517-334-6060 ext. 836 or e-mail her at doerrj@michigan.gov.

Space is limited, so please return your registration as soon as possible to maximize your opportunity to attend. Your registration is a commitment to attend the entire training. Please do not register to attend this training unless you have the scheduling flexibility and have received the necessary authorization to attend. If you must cancel after you have been confirmed to attend this training, please contact Ms. Doerr as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Registrations may be transferred to another individual with prior confirmation from PAAM/CATS. **Onsite registration is not available.** Subject to space limitations, we will attempt to accommodate late registrants up to two weeks before the training dates.